(ग) आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों के वृद्धि का मुख्य कारण आबादी बढ़ने से मांग में वृद्धि होना, कुछ वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में लगभग ठहराव आना या कम उत्पादन होना जिसके फलस्वरूप दालों, वनस्पति तेलों आदि जैसी वस्तुओं की मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच के अंतर में वृद्धि, उनके आदानों की लागत का बढ़ाना तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में ऊंचे मूल्यों के कारण आयात कम होना है।

(घ) सरकार ने आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों को नियंत्रण में रखने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए हैं। गेहूं की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए राज्य व्यापार निगम के जरिए 20 लाख मी० टन गेहूं का आयात करने के लिए कार्यवाही की गई है। आवश्यक वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए कुछ दीर्घकालिक उपायों के साथ-साथ कम आपूर्ति वाली वस्तुओं के आयात को बढ़ावा दिया जाता है, ताकि इन वस्तुओं की उपलब्धता बढ़ाई जा सके। कुछ वस्तुएं बाजार से कम मूल्यों पर सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली तथा सहकारी भंडारों के जरिए भी सप्लाई की जाती है। जमाखोरों तथा चोर बाजारियों और अनुचित व्यापारिक व्यवहारों में लिप्त दूसरे लोगों के विरुद्ध राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र सरकारों द्वारा आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम और चोर बाजारी निवारण तथा आवश्यक वस्तु प्रदाय अधिनियम आदि के तहत कठोर कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

**Refixation of Price of Levy Sugar**

*39. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to implement the Supreme Court judgement on refixing of price of levy sugar;

(b) whether the increase would be passed on to the PDS consumers or subsidised by Government; and

(c) the likely ramifications of the implementation of the judgement on both Government and the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The implications of the Supreme Court's judgement dated 28.1.97, particularly regarding the modality of implementation, are being studied with a view to refix the price.

(b) and (c) There is no likelyhood of increase in price, if any, being passed on to consumers at this stage.

**Loan for Self Employment by National SC and ST Finance Corporation**

*40. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation has provided any loans to people of these communities for self employment;

(b) if so, the names of such beneficiaries in the country, district-wise alongwith the amount of loan advanced in each case and its terms and conditions;

(c) whether some formalities have been prescribed to make use of such schemes of loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to offer more such loans for self-employment to people of these communities in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps to be taken to publicise it?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (f) Since its inception in February 1989, NSFDC has been regularly providing loans to SCs/STs for their self-employment projects. NSFDC disburses loans through State Channelising agencies. It does not maintain district-wise details of beneficiaries and the amount of loan advanced in case of each beneficiary. The standard terms & conditions of sanctioning loan are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below)

The following formalities have been prescribed to avail the loan:

(i) Beneficiary should be either SC/ST.

(ii) The family income of the beneficiary should be below double the poverty line.

(iii) The scheme should be techno-economically viable.

(iv) The scheme should be submitted to the State Channelising Agency which in turn will scrutinize the same and forward with their recommendation to NSFDC for sanction or otherwise.

A budgetary support of Rs. 96.00 crores for the financial year 1997-98 has been made which is a step-up from the allocation of Rs. 65.00 crores for the year 1996-97. The additional fund will enable NSFDC to provide increased coverage of SCs/STs for vairous self-employment projects.

NSFDC publicises its various activities through newspapers, pamphlets and through State Channelising Agencies. State Channelising Agencies also in turn publicise the scheme through various methods including newspapers.

**Statement**

**Standard Conditions**

1. For any charge in the parameters and terms and conditions of the scheme, prior approval of NSFDC shall be obtained.
2. The SCDCs/OCAs shall ensure that eligibility criteria of NSFDC for the beneficiaries is complied with.
3. The SCDCs/OCAs shall enter into general loan agreement and arrange for execution of other legal documents including guarantee deed etc. in favour of NSFDC within stipulated time.
4. The SCDCs/OCAs shall ensure effective monitoring and periodic flow of information to NSFDC relating to progress/implementation of this scheme during the currency of the loan.
5. Cost over-run, if any, in the scheme shall be met by the SCDCs/OCAs to the satisfaction of NSFDC.
6. For monitoring the implementation of the project, SCDCs/OCAs shall form a Project Implementation Committee where NSFDC's nominee would invariably be included.
7. Funds released by NSFDC for implementation of the scheme be utilised within 90 days by SCDCs/OCAs,

8. *Higher Rate of Interest on Utilised Funds*

If NSFDC funds are not utilised within 90 days, the unutilised portion of the fund will, from the 91st day onwards, attract interest @ 2% p.a. higher than interest chargeable to SCDCs/OCAs subject to minimum of 6 months' Bank deposit rate fixed at the beginning of the financial year. In no case the higher rate of interest charged will be levied subsequently from the beneficiary.

9. *Penal Rate of Interest on Defaulted Repayments*

If any instalment of principal and/or itnterest is paid after due date, the total amount will attract penal interest at 4% higher than what was fixed for the same.

10. NSFDc shall have right to appoint atleast one nominee Director on the Board of SCDCs/OCAs. The channelising agency shall make necessary provision for the same in their bye-laws (common for all the projects).
11. Release of NSFDC funds shall be suject to:

(a) Submission of list of beneficiaries alongwith requisition of funds to NSFDC.

(b) Satisfactory utilisation of funds, already released by NSFDC.

(c) Satisfactory level of repayment of dues to NSFDC.

12. Assets created and any advertisement for the scheme should carry the message that NSFDC is one of the financiaries of the scheme.

13. The SCDCs/OCAs shall also comply with any other condition that the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of NSFDC may deem fit to stipulate during the currency of the loan.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Revised Public distribution system

113. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided in principle to introudce a revised Public Distribution System so as to target the poorest of the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much additional financial burden will be borne by the Central Government in implementation of the revised PDS; and

(d) what is the rough estimate of number of people below the poverty line who will be covered?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have approved the scheme of Streamlining the Public Distribution System with focus on the Poor. The main features of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) will be as under:—

(i) All families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) shall be provided with 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central Issue Price.

(ii) Identification of population below poverty line shall be taken up by State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of provisional estimates of below poverty line population worked out by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala.

(iii) The issue of foodgrains for non-poor shall, however, continue on the basis of average annual lifting of foodgrains by the States/UTs for the last 10 years at the normal issue price (CIP). The quantity of foodgrains out of this average lifting which is in excess of the requirement for the population Below Poverty Line, is proposed to be allocated to States as a transitory allocation, at the Central Issue Prices.

(iv) The State Governments/UT Administrations will have to ensure foolproof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution to the poor in a transparant and accurate manner.

(v) Specially subsidised foodgrains will be issued also to all beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) at the rate of one kg. per manday.

(c) The Expenditure on TPDS will depend on CIP fixed by the Government from time to time.

(d) It is estimated that 3203.68 lakh persons are Below the Poverty Line which is about 35.97% of the total population.